

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph **[0001]** of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This invention relates generally to laser fiber amplifiers and, more particularly, fiber amplifiers employing stimulated Raman scattering (SRS) for optical mode discrimination. The principle of SRS is widely known and used in connection with laser amplifiers. United States Patent No. US ~~6,353,087~~ 6,363,087 B1 issued in the name of Robert R. Rice and entitled "Multimode Raman Fiber Amplifier and Method," discusses the prior art of Raman fiber amplifiers. This patent, which will be referred to for convenience as "the '087 Rice patent," discloses a device and method that have objectives similar to those of the present invention.